



Ben's Weekly Update

Over £22m of investment for Mansfield in January!

Some brilliant and positive news to start off 2023!.. Between new mental health and Levelling-up announcements, we've had a good January in Mansfield. I reckon it's even more actually and you could add over £4m to support Social Care too!



Thoughts on PM's first 100 days!

On Thursday night I was on Jeremy Kyle Live on TalkTV, where we spoke about the PM's first 100 days, and his comments this week on illegal migration, you can watch the full thing below!

[Watch here](#)

We also discussed the economy, and plans to reduce taxation.

[Have a look here](#)

Ways to keep in touch

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Fixing children's social care

Some really positive stuff from a new strategy for children in care, and one that aligns with what we've been saying here in Nottinghamshire. We want to support more children to be with family, to be in their community with their friends, to have stable relationships etc rather than swooping in and taking people in to children's homes, where we know the outcomes are not good enough. That's the right approach, and Government's report reflects what I've been saying. Pleased there's £200m here to help implement that, and I'll be asking Government to make our area one of the 45 early projects as laid out in the strategy.

[Read more here](#)



Youth services and asking ‘what is a man’ in the 21st century?

I've been at the Garra at Forest Town with Danny Dyer (more info on why when I can tell you!), talking Youth Services and meeting some lads who use the service.

We're investing in our Youth Services and I'm hoping that, through Government's Youth Investment Fund, we'll be able to open more Youth Centres in Mansfield.

Really, really important to do more to offer support, activities, trusted adults and role models for our young people through Youth Work.

We also visited Forest Town Arena to have a chat with residents, including from the U3A group. Danny is doing a project about men's issues and the perception of masculinity, which I was really pleased to support. More on that soon!



Sustainable public services

“To make services sustainable for the long run, you have to make long term changes, tackling the root causes of why people end up relying on care services.

We need to change what we deliver, to do more in communities to help families early on when problems emerge, instead of just picking up the pieces when everything goes wrong.

However, if we're constantly battling to fund basic things each year, we're not going to have the capacity to make those changes.

That's why we've taken a sensible, long term approach to our services; delivering improvement in key areas instead of cuts, and getting out of areas where we don't need to be, like reducing our office buildings from 17 down to 9 so far.”

Ben Bradley MP
serving Mansfield & Warsop

Councils funding Stonewall - HINT: Not mine!

For the record - and to clarify yet another bit of misleading headline writing - this article below refers to 'Nottinghamshire taxpayers' funding things like Stonewall LGBT awards in its top lines, despite the fact that the article is actually about Nottingham CITY Council. I've already had people contact me having picked up the wrong information from this article.

In reality one of the first things I did when I became leader of the County Council was withdraw any taxpayer funding from these kinds of schemes, and from organisations like Stonewall. No organisation I lead will fund these things with your money. We'll spend money on delivering your local services, not on diversity virtue signalling.

Labour run Nottingham City Council, well, they're a different story... £50m in illegal spending, Government have to step in to sort it out, cutting services left, right and centre, but still spending taxpayer's money on 'diversity and inclusion awards'. Go figure!

Have a read for yourself!



More funding for Nottinghamshire Police

Really pleased to hear that funding for Nottinghamshire Police will rise by £9m for next year. Obviously the reality of inflation means everything is stretched right now, but that's a significant cash increase to ensure that our Police Force and Officers have what they need to do the job!



Supporting Andre Camilleri for Mayor!

Out and about every day this week updating residents on Andre Camilleri's plan for when he's elected Mayor!.. Including abolishing the position and office of Mayor!

Here's why you should support Andre!

**Andre will give you another say over whether you think Mansfield should still have a Mayor...
[Click here to share your view](#)**

ACTION TO CUT WAITING LISTS

Delivering better patient care for you as part of our **new Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery Plan**



**800 MORE
AMBULANCES**



**5,000 MORE
HOSPITAL BEDS**



**MORE
NHS STAFF**

DELIVERING ON OUR 5 PROMISES

HALVE INFLATION | GROW THE ECONOMY

REDUCE DEBT | CUT WAITING LISTS | STOP THE BOATS

This week marks the launch of the Urgent and Emergency Care Plan to fix A&E and ambulance waiting times over the next two years by:

- Increasing capacity with £1 billion for more beds and ambulances; supported by more staff.
- Reducing pressure on hospitals by speeding up discharge; expanding new, innovative measures to treat patients safely in the community; and enhancing the role of NHS 111.
- Improving local A&E services by sharing and promoting best practice, so no matter where you live, you can get the care you need.

Pleased we're delivering on the PM's promise to prioritise the NHS and cut waiting lists, with one of the fastest improvements in emergency waiting times in the history of the NHS, making sure people get the care they need easier, faster, and closer to home.



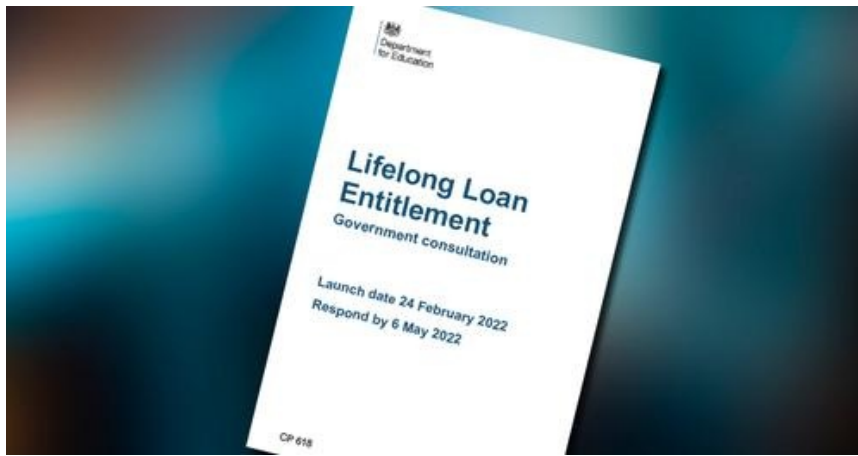
Meeting with Council officers in Parliament

Enjoyed meeting Council Officers in Parliament this week, from Local authorities all over the place - including Mansfield District Council - who are finishing up a development programme in strategic leadership. Was a pleasure to help them explore Parliament, and to talk about working with politicians. So much of getting things done in Councils is about good relationships and shared goals between Officers and Senior Politicians. That's how change happens!



Visit to Nottingham College

I've been to Nottingham College this week to talk automotive engineering, our plans for skills across the region, and their recent 'Good' Ofsted. Some fascinating stuff going on here, particularly on electric vehicles and on working with local employers to get the provision right. Absolutely loads we can do on skills with our new devolved control over adult skills and other related funding, to ensure we have a more joined up and effective offer for local people.



Lifelong loan entitlement for education!

This is really excellent news and could be a game changer for the way we approach education.

From 2025 onwards, student finance will be available to you flexibly throughout your life. That means if you want to study or retrain as an adult you'll be able to access financial support to do so and to cover fees etc.

You'll also be able to access courses by module, rather than having to do it all in one go. That means you'll be able to dip in to qualifications for a shorter period, bank what you've learned, and pick it up later. You'll even be able to carry on at a different institution if you move or your circumstances change.

Accessing more flexible and accessible education throughout your whole life will be a fantastic step forward for the increasing number of people who are changing careers, or who want to upskill themselves throughout their lives. Look forward to working with our colleges and universities to see it implemented!

[More info here](#)



Celebrating our University Town!

This is one of the most important steps forward our town has taken in recent years, in terms of opportunities for the future for local people.

Mansfield is now a university town, with high quality Higher Education on our doorstep delivered by the Times Modern University of the Year, Nottingham Trent University.

When I became the MP five years ago, Mansfield had a struggling college that was in financial dire straits and making redundancies, and now we have Vision West Notts going from strength to strength, with new sixth form provision too, and in partnership with NTU at the Derby Road site delivering amazing new things for local people.

Brilliant! Huge thanks to the leadership of both NTU and WNC for investing in our town!



Midlands Engine

Happy to support the Midlands Engine review on the Midlands' Nuclear industry and the opportunities for this to significantly scale up and drive economic growth.

We're very lucky in the Midlands to have a number of companies playing a significant role in the nuclear industry. This, alongside the fact we have a revolutionary £20 billion STEP Fusion reactor coming to North Notts, puts us in a unique position to develop the supply chains and skills needed to grow the UK's nuclear sector.

An interesting read for sure!



High skilled, high paid job opportunities coming to Nottinghamshire

We've got some really significant opportunities for growth in high-skilled and high paid jobs, with major new industry in North Notts like STEP Fusion Energy coming our way, and huge sites for further investment like at Toton just down the road, or in Advanced Manufacturing in Sutton, for example. These kinds of sites, within commuting distance for Mansfield residents, will present opportunities for local people to access high paid new jobs in different sectors of our economy without moving away from home, for the first time... well... ever, really.

When combined with the chance to shape local skills and qualifications around these industries, and for local transport investment too, through devolving powers funding to our region instead of it being decided in Whitehall, we'll also be able to join up the career pathways from school in to great jobs, and physically link up Mansfield residents to those jobs with investment in infrastructure.

It's not going to happen overnight, it's a long term shift, but our area has such HUGE potential for the future.

[Watch Rishi's video here](#)



UK Parliament vs. 'Man v Fat'

Out early doors Tuesday morning for UK Parliament vs MAN v FAT #menshealth. They had some thin blokes as well! Outfield for me today - not all convinced that running is good for my health to be honest!

[Watch my video here](#)



Mansfield U3A!

An absolute pleasure to spend an hour or so with Mansfield U3A Friday morning, setting the world to rights and talking about every issue under the sun. Huge thank you for having me!

#timetotalk

Today is 'Time To Talk' day... No matter what you're doing, try to make space for a conversation about mental health.

"I have long campaigned on the issue of mental health and there are so many awful examples of young men in particular taking their own lives in our community.

Every conversation really does count, so please find some time today to look in on your family and friends, even if just to ask them how they're doing."


Ben Bradley MP
serving Mansfield & Warsop

Time To Talk Day

This week was Time To Talk Day.

#TimeToTalk day is all about starting up a conversation with a family member, friend or even a work colleague to make some space to discuss and remove the stigma attached to mental health. Discussing your mental health can be challenging, but it can be absolutely life changing.

[Find out more here](#)

And finally, this week's column! ↓

Click below to read...

["Welcome vital funding to improve mental health services in Mansfield"](#)



That's all for this week!

Thanks for reading and I hope you have a great weekend!

Ben

Follow me on social media



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